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Probe Urged Of Donovan's Role in Cuba

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WASHINGTON, June 12

(UPI). — All 13 Republican members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee have called for a Congressional inquiry into the role played by New York attorney James Donovan in the release of prisoners from Communist Cuba.

The request was made in a letter to commerce chairman Thomas E. Morgan, (D.-Pa.)

The GOP House members said many aspects of Mr. Donovan's negotiations with Cuban Premier Castro "remain baffling."

The White House had no immediate comment on the GOP call for an investigation.

The top Republican on the committee, Rep. Frances P. Bolton of Ohio, said there was "nothing political" behind the move.

Mr. Donovan negotiated the release of 1,113 Cubans taken prisoner in the "Bay of Pigs" invasion in exchange for a U. S. ransom payment of cash, food and medicines.

He also negotiated the ex-

change of 27 Americans held in Cuba for three Cuban criminals imprisoned in this country.

AGENT OR NOT?

In their letter, the Republicans raised the question of whether Mr. Donovan was served as an agent of the U. S. Government or acting as a private individual in possible violation of the Logan Act. The act prohibits private negotiations with foreign governments.

The GOP members said "a

more basic question that deserves serious consideration is the wisdom of permitting those in the ambiguous position of Mr. Donovan to carry on negotiations which appear to entail weighty obligations for the Government of the United States."

The Republicans also said that Mr. Donovan should be summoned to testify "to determine the exact nature and scope of his conversations with Castro."

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